the centinel

C.S.N.S. 36TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION
HEART OF AMERICA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 1975
KANSAS CITY, MO., APRIL 25-26-27

Volume 23, Number 1
July, 1975

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Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

Vol. 23, No. 1 July, 1975

Kansas City Convention Rated 'Best' in Central States' History

Everything was up to date in Kansas City, conventioneers attending the 36th annual convention of the Central States Numismatic Society enthusiastically testified as they enjoyed a show resembling the scope of a national event.

Directed by Ray O. Lefman as general chairman for the host club, the Heart of America Numismatic Association, Inc., the Central States show was held at the Hotel Muehlebach, April 25-26-27.

Assisting Lefman was Ralph Hardman as bourse chairman and Dale Hauber, exhibits chairman and president of the Heart of America group.

Highlights of the Kansas City convention were two exhibits, the famous 1907 Indian Head double eagle, considered one of the most valuable coins in the world. It is insured for a million dollars by its owner, Paramount International Coin Corp. Offers for half that amount have been rejected. The 100-case collection of 6,000 Chinese coins, assembled by the Rev. Arthur B. Coole, and exhibited by Jack Klausen, its owner, who has added $100,000 in Chinese gold coins, attracted much attention.

A Professional Numismatists Guild, Inc., day, arranged by PNG President Douglas Weaver, and John Smies, executive secretary, was held on Thursday, followed by an evening banquet. There was a 175-dealer bourse throughout the rest of the convention, and an auction cataloged and sold by Rare Coin Company of America, Inc., Chicago.

An Organization of International Numismatists-Central States counterfeit detection seminar was directed by Virgil Hancock, John Hunter and Coin World's Ed Fleischmann. Films by the Bureau of the Mint and the Franklin Mint were presented throughout the show.

The educational forum, moderated

(Continued on page 3)

About The Cover

With ANA President Virginia Culver weilding the scissors, a ribbon of dollar bills was cut marking the official opening of Central States Numismatic Society's 36th anniversary convention in Kansas City. U S. Mint Director Mary Brooks and Convention Chairman Ray Lefman, as well as dozens of Society members and officials, observed the ritual.

Major numismatic attarctions of the Kansas City convention included Paramount International Coin Corporation's "millon dollar" gold coin (above) and the 128 case Oriental coin collection of Jack Klausen (below, right). While the gold pattern could be studied — at a distance, students of Oriental numismatics, such as Bruce Smith, were granted close-up examinations of the thousands of specimens.

The Society's coveted Medal of Merit for 1975 was presented to Ralph D. Hardman by Ray Lefman (left photo). Below: At the OIN-CSNS sponsored counterfeit detection seminar, instructor Virgil Hancock showed W. L. "Dutch" Rohning a spurious specimen under a stereo microscope.

by Rear Admiral O. H. Dodson, USN (Ret.) featured Mint Director Mary Brooks, a guest of honor at the convention, along with William T. Louth, who heads the Medallic Art Co., and Margo Russell, Coin World editor. Mrs. Brooks was honored earlier in the day at a special reception hosted by Dan Parker, CSNS president. Mrs. Brooks described the Bicentennial coins soon to be released as coins truly belonging to the people and from the people.

Many of the convention guests attended the exhibition of archaeological finds of the People's Republic of China at the Nelson/Adkins gallery, or toured the Truman Library in Independence.

Among the informal social events were autograph parties by American Numismatic Association President Virginia Culver, publisher Chester A. Krause and William F. Krieg for the Franklin Mint catalog. A reunion of Old Time Assay Commissioners was held by Ray and Betty Lefman as hosts, with Margo Russell, 1974-75 chief assayer, greeting the guests.

The ladies' luncheon, a meeting of the International Bank Note Society with Grover Criswell presenting the program, and a session of the Elongated Collectors of the Midwest were also included in the program.

William F. Krieg was master of ceremonies for the banquet which climaxed the social events of the convention. During the program over which the Franklin Mint executive presided, the exhibit awards were presented.

Winners included:

Class 1, U. S. coins: First, Peter W. Phillips; second, Orville V. Munzer;

third, Lou Strand.

Class 2, Coins Prior to 1500 A.D.: First, Robert A. Weimer; second, Mrs. L. Lamar Davis; third, Robert A. Weimer.

Class 3, Foreign After 1500 A.D.: First, Andrew P. Oberbillig.

Class 4, Paper Money: First, Marjorie M. Owen; second, Maurice M. Burgett; third, Victor A. Seibert.

Class 5, Gold, all kinds: First, Jack D. Huggins, Sr.; second, Marvin A. Burnette.

Class 6, Medals, medallic art and decorations: First, Marcus J. Daly II; second, Marvin A. Burnette.

Class 7, General, miscellaneous: First, Andrew P. Oberbillig; second, Marcus J. Daly II.

Class 8, Juniors: First, Lyndon L. Davis.

Mrs. Owen captured best in show, the Lewis M. Reagan Foundation's B. Max Mehl award.

Daniel C. Parker, CSNS president, officiated over the business sessions, assisted by his first vice president, Harold H. Berk; A. P. "Del" Bertschy, second vice president; Oliver W. Horton, secretary-treasurer.

Members of the board of governors of governors of CSNS include John H. Cain, Kenneth Ferguson, Hardman, Miss Orlane Kittle, Kurt R. Krueger, Lefman, Timothy I. Marcy, Lowell L. Owen, William Pettit, Allen L. Schrock, and Don Squire, Wayne D. Jackson and Ben Stocker.

David L. Cooper is the immediate past president; George D. Hatie, legal counsel; Roland W. Finner, editor of the Centinel, and Dale Hauber, convention exhibits chairman.

Lois Keeler was in charge of registration; Cain, security; Betty Lefman, ladies' luncheon, and Allison Lowe, hotel liaison. Tom Garrison, Gilbert Bledsoe, Harry Bosley, Charles Keeler, Carl DiCapo, Terance Cassidy and Ray Stevenson also served on the convention planning group.

Central States members are now turning the attention to next year's convention, to be held April 29-May 2, 1976, at the Sheraton hotel in Chicago. William Petit, Aurora, is general chairman. Milwaukee is the site of the 1977 convention. Dates are May 13-15. A.P. "Del" Bertschy is chairman.

Royal treatment was accorded the Society's ladies (and a few of the guys) at a luncheon MC'd by congenial Ray Byrne.

A double winner, Marjorie Owen (above) was presented the Reagan Foundation sponsored B. Max Mehl best of show and the Julian S. Marks best paper money exhibit awards.

The 1975 Elston G. Bradfield literary award, sponsored by the Lewis M. Reagan Memorial Foundation, was awarded to Kurt R. Krueger, author of the best article published in The Centinel.

Wine and Wisconsin cheese were the order of the day as Chet Krause and Virginia Culver (both seated below) autographed copies of their recently released guidebook of Franklin Mint products.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTARY

The 36th Anniversary CSNS Convention has come and gone. Without any doubt, it was the finest of all conventions. My personal thanks are hereby tendered to the Heart of America Numismatic Association for the expert job they did in the planning and the carrying out of all the plans . . . a magnificent job in which all their membership can take great pride.

And there were so many contributors to the overall success of the convention. Thanks to Virgil Hancock and his staff who conducted the seminar on detection of counterfeits, to the officers and board members of the ANA who graced the convention and added the prestige of the national body and to Chet Krause and Virginia Culver for the magnificent job of introducing their new book. Bill Krieg and the Franklin Mint Staff added so much to the proceedings, and Bill's great job at the banquet topped it all.

Mary Brooks and her staff added much to the occasion of the convention. Not only was it my privilege to introduce Mrs. Brooks at the reception, but she topped it all by sending a thank-you note to me for having her as a guest of the convention. A most gracious lady and one great asset to the hobby and the government which she represents.

While I am handing out laurels, I must tip my hat to the numismatic press who covered the entire proceedings from beginning to end. COIN WORLD, Krause Publications, et al, deserve the support of the hobby. Then the 'grand old men' of Central States,

Daniel C. Parker

Lee Hewitt, Dick Yeoman, Oscar Dodson. These 'elder statesmen' of Central States Numismatic Society surely helped to build a great society. I sincerely hope that we gave them a convention they could be proud of. It is a great honor to head such an organization!

—DANIEL C. PARKER
President

P. S. Chicago: top this one, please!!!

★ ★

The so-called Mercury dime is actually a representation of Liberty, with the wings on her cap symbolizing freedom of thought.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Another GREAT convention—"Come Alive in '75"—has come and gone. If you were in attendance, you know exactly what I mean! But if you weren't you missed a whale of a convention. General Chairman Ray Lefman and his committee really put on a show. My personal thanks to all of the Kansas City people.

Oliver W. Horton

Now the word is GO and the count down has started for Chicago in 1976. General Chairman Bill Pettit and his crew will be out trying to make 1976 still a better and greater convention. Bill has a few schemes up his sleeve and, with it being the Bicentennial Year, who knows what he may be planning for us in Chicago. So right now is a good time to start making plans to be in attendance next April.

Rare Coin Company of America (RARCOA) had another wonderful two-session auction during the Kansas City conclave, and you can bet that Ed Milas and his fine crew will have another one next April that will be just as great or greater!

My sincere thanks to all the new members who joined the Society (the list is quite long this time), plus all the regular members who have decided to take out Life Memberships in the Society. This only goes to prove that they have faith in our hobby and our Society. Again I proudly state that we are second only to the ANA. Our membership and our conventions have grown in tremendous proportions over the past few years, and in order to accommodate all phases of the hobby, and all interested participants of our conventions, we are having to draw up more rigid requirements pertaining to convention sites, needed facilities, etc. At present we are sitting real well regarding cities and dates for future conventions, but we could use a choice site and a hard-working group of host club members for 1979. If your club is thinking of hosting a convention for us and is anticipating putting in a bid, just remember that 1979 is not far off and now is a good time to contact the CSNS secretary and get the particulars. Most nice convention centers are being booked years in advance now, and long-range planning is a must.

Our proposed change to the By-Laws, concerning the raising of the Life Membership fee, was passed and adopted at the Kansas City general membership meeting. The fee henceforth is $100. LM application forms are available just for the asking from

BANK NOTE REPORTER

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VOLUME 1, NO. 15

35¢ Copy

MARCH, 1974

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If You Collect Paper Money, You Should Be A Subscriber To The World's Best Publication On The Subject

A cherub defends himself with a silver dollar on this $2 proof note.

Silver Dollar Vignettes On State Bank Notes

By Dr. John A. Muscalus
© 1974

Unless one has a large collection of state bank notes or happens to specialize in state bank notes of Indiana, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, or Rhode Island, he is not likely to be aware of the extensive number of notes with silver dollar vignettes.

It is the purpose of this survey to provide an awareness of the extent of silver dollar vignettes for those not familiar with the situation and also to provide a time-saving check list for those who are interested in coin vignettes.

This list of silver dollar vignettes is based on a survey of thousands of notes supplemented with a perusal of pertinent literature in specific geographic areas where notes were not at hand. For the present, this report is not concerned with gold coins, Spanish coins, and fractional coins. The silver dollar vignettes are more frequent than gold or large Spanish coin vignettes and are, therefore, given priority.

The absence of a listing for a state or city does not necessarily mean that there are no coin vignettes for them. There may be gold, Spanish coin or fractional currency vignettes; or there may be scarce or rare notes known only to specialists in given areas.

On the basis of this survey, it seems that there are upwards of 115 different notes with silver dollar vignettes, most of them issued in Indiana, New York, Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island.

Although there are so many silver dollar vignettes, they are not all different. Some vignettes occur repeatedly among the notes. For example, there are some twenty different bank notes with the vignette that portrays a cherub rolling a large 1853 or 1854 silver dollar, whereas a vignetter of the 1801 silver dollars is rare.

• See Page 5

A Notorious R.I. Bank

By S. K. Whitfield

Every now and again notes of the Farmers Exchange Bank at Gloucester, Rhode Island appear for sale. The seller almost always points out that these notes were part of a stupendous swindle.

When I purchased one of these notes some time ago, my curiosity was piqued enough to determine what really happened back there in New England, nearly 175 years ago, that made this bank so infamous.

Banking profits in New England at the beginning of the 19th century caused many individuals to seek bank charters throughout the area. Since the city of Boston acted as a clearing house for New

• See Page 6

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INSIDE Report

"Os-Kotchea," Michigan's native son who traded away the land of his Indian friends — Page 3

M. Titus solves the numismatist's identity crisis — Page 13

"Our country!" . . . Our whole country" — Page 16

Take a cruise to Nassau — Page 19

ANA Offers $5,000 Reward

The Board of Governors of the American Numismatic Association has posted a $5000 reward for information that would lead to the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murder of ANA member Earle D. Sherwood.

John Jay Pittman, chairman of the ANA Security, Thefts and Robberies Committee, noted this action by the board at its recent meeting in Colorado Springs.

Mr. Sherwood, formerly of Hurley, N.Y., and a 39 year member of the association, was brutally murdered during a robbery involving his personal collection at his home in Florida. He moved to the Beacon Square retiree area of Tampa-Saint Petersburg three years ago from New York state where he had spent most

• See Page 5

your secretary.

I am always looking for a few more dues dollars, so check your current membership card; if it reads ". . . is a member in good standing to 4/30/75," near the center of the right hand side of the card, you should send me a three-dollar check and I will send you a new card.

Again, if you are moving, PLEASE — and I am pleading with you — PLEASE send me your new address so that I may be able to get your copy of The Centinel to you. An issue returned to me does not do either of us any good. And besides, it costs us at least 26c to have it returned — plus the original postage in mailing to you the first time.

A call for nominations for CSNS officers will be coming up in the October issue of The Centinel. So look around within your club and see if there is someone who would make a good officer for your Society. I can not put a ballot together with two or three persons running for each and every position, as some have indicated that they would like to see. I can only list the ones who are properly nominated and have signed a letter of acceptance.

For the good of our fine hobby and for the good of your collector friends, do them a favor, sign them up into the membership of the Central States Numismatic Society.

—OLIVER W. HORTON
Secretary-Treasurer

★ ★ ★

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

New Members Since The April, 1975, Issue of THE CENTINEL

2638	Douglas Robins	Corvallis, Ore.
2639	John H. Landvater	Summit, N. J.
2640	Kathleen A. Golom	Crestwood, Mo.
2641	Marjorie M. Owen	Adel, Iowa
2642	Lou Strnad	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
2643	Michael B. Scacci	Ottumwa, Iowa
2644	Marcus J. Daly II	St. Louis, Mo.
2645	Milton G. Heitman	Marengo, Iowa
2646	Peter DeGraaf	Ottawa, Ont., Canada
2647	Leo J. Lange	Winona, Minn.
2648	Winona Coin Club	Winona, Minn.
2649	Roger L. Winkelhake	Lincoln, Nebr
2650	Bill Hill	Albuquerque, N. M.
2651	Robert McIntire	Jacksonville, Ark.
2652	Robert E. Whilhite	Jacksonville, Ark.
2653	Robert P. Mein	Storm Lake, Iowa
2654	Jonathan K. Kern	Lexington, Ky.
2655	Gilbert D. Endicott	Cresco, Iowa
2656	Tom Cole	Lincoln, Nebr.
2657	Edgar J. Modesitt	Vienna, W. Va.
2658	Mark W. Jervis	Kansas City, Kan.

2659 Allison Lowe ..... Kansas City, Mo.
2660 Kenneth Goldman ..... Boston, Mass.
2661 Chris R. Wilken, Jr. ..... Lincoln, Nebr.
2662 D. M. Fretwell ..... Fort Worth, Texas
2663 Juanita Willmeth ..... Florissant, Mo.
2664 Dale Willmeth ..... Florissant, Mo.
2665 George E. Stuber ..... Kansas City, Mo.
2666 Douglas Robinson ..... Claremont, Calif.
2667 Bill Causey ..... Claremont, Calif.
2668 Gerald E. Johnson ..... Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
2669 David Holwegner ..... Bismarck, N.D.
2670 Larry P. Schneider ..... Bismarck, N. D.
2671 Bert Harsche ..... Bismarck, N. D.
2672 Glen I. Jode ..... Devils Lake, N. D.
2673 William Henry ..... Kalamazoo, Mich.
2674 C. Daniel Cassini ..... Minneapolis, Minn.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP — Converted from Regular Membership

LM 139 Edward Sedo ..... Dearborn, Mich.
LM 140 Russell C. Frank ..... Cranford, N. J.
LM 141 Edward W. Straub, Jr. ..... Willimantic, Conn.
LM 142 Steve Eyer ..... Blackwood, N. J.
LM 143 Charles E. Sloan ..... St. Louis, Mo.
LM 144 Kenneth Goldman ..... Boston, Mass.
LM 145 Jeffrey S. Zarit ..... Arlington Heights, Ill.
LM 146 Norman Rau ..... Ft. Wayne, Ind.
LM 147 Robert Dempsey ..... Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
LM 148 Thomas P. Squires ..... Marietta, Ohio
LM 149 Michael Dennis Abbott ..... Omaha, Nebr.
LM 150 Chicago Coin Club ..... Chicago, Ill.
LM 151 Hy Brown ..... Plainesville, Ohio
LM 152 John B. Love ..... Cut Bank, Mont.
LM 153 James W. Fairfield ..... Ft. Wayne, Ind.
LM 154 Bill Kiszely ..... Grand Ledge, Mich.
LM 155 Heart of America Numismatic Assn. ..... Kansas City, Mo.
LM 156 Leon E. Hendrickson ..... Winchester, Ind.
LM 157 L. LaMar Davis ..... Edna, Kan.
LM 158 Howard W. Herz ..... Minden, Nev.
LM 159 Gene R. Boyd ..... Davenport, Iowa
LM 160 Chuck Furjanic ..... Pittsburgh, Pa.
LM 161 Lou J. DeBenjak ..... Sandusky, Ohio
LM 162 Charles E. Hileman ..... Granite City, Ill.
LM 163 C. M. Vena, Jr. ..... Hackensack, N. J.
LM 164 Benjamin A. Lambert, Jr. ..... Milton, Mass.
LM 165 John Gulde ..... Greenville, Ohio
LM 166 James A. Simek ..... Chicago, Ill.
LM 167 Don Kagin ..... Des Moines, Iowa

(Secretary's Note: In the above applications, one member has not filled all qualifications as pertaining to the By-Laws of the Society. Therefore, his application and monies will remain in escrow until such time as he is qualified to be granted a Life Membership.—O. W. H.)

the centinel SPOTLIGHT

Milwaukee Collector Named First 'Ambassador' for '75

The first Numismatic News Weekly Numismatic Ambassador award for 1975 was presented May 18 to A. P. "Del" Bertschy at the Numismatists of Wisconsin (NOW) Convention in Milwaukee.

News' publisher Chester L. Krause presented the award at the NOW awards breakfast at the group's 15th annual convention. Bertschy was general chairman for that show, as he has been for several previous Milwaukee coin conventions sponsored by NOW, the Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS), and his home club, the Milwaukee Numismatic Society (MNS).

First Numismatic Ambassador award winner of 1975, A. P. "Del" Bertschy, right, receives a plaque symbolic of the award from publisher Chester L. Krause. Bertschy received the award May 18 at the 15th annual convention of the Numismatists of Wisconsin, at the Red Carpet Inn in Milwaukee.

Bertschy, 78, has been a coin collector since 1908. His life-long devotion to the hobby led to his selection for the award by his predecessors, the 10 Numismatic Ambassadors of 1974.

Presenting the award, Krause explained its significance. "We have long felt that certain individuals, while recognized for their special contributions to the hobby in the local area, have not received the national recognition that is merited. After all, it's the grass-roots support that has made our hobby truly national in scope and influence."

An active member of the MNS and CSNS since 1940, beside serving as president of the former, and a member of the board of governors of NOW, Bertschy has long been a supporter of National Coin Week. Since the 1940s, he has annually presented and maintained a week-long exhibit at a local bank promoting the hobby.

Throughout 1975, Numismatic Ambassador awards will be presented to deserving hobby supporters. Criteria used by the present Ambassadors for selecting new winners include: Devotion to the hobby, assistance given to other collectors and organizations, integrity and overall knowledge of the hobby.

"A Numismatic Ambassador is more than a knowledgeable collector," Krause explained. He (or she) is a person who shares spare time and knowledge with others, by answering questions of beginning collectors and presenting informative programs and exhibits at coin-related gatherings.

"Above all," Krause added, "the Numismatic Ambassador has earned the respect of his peers for his faithful service to the hobby at the local, regional and national levels."

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New Catalog Offered by Society of Medalists

Each of the 90 high-relief fine art medals struck by The Society of Medalists is illustrated in a new catalog available free to interested collectors. The 90 medallic issues comprise one of the nation's most distinctive collections, each 2 7/8-inch medal having been designed by one of America's most distinguished sculptors.

The Society is a non-profit collectors' organization founded in 1930 by the late art patron, George DuPont Pratt, principally to encourage sculptors in the ancient medium of bas-relief. Two sculptors have been commissioned each year since to design a fine art medal for the Society and their collective efforts are depicted in the atttractive catalog. All Society medals are available in bronze and many of the earliest in pure silver (.999 fine), as well.

According to an announcement from Mary Louise Cram, Executive Secretary of the organization, a free copy of the new catalog can be obtained by writing to The Society of Medalists, 27 West Branch Road, Weston, Connecticut 06880.

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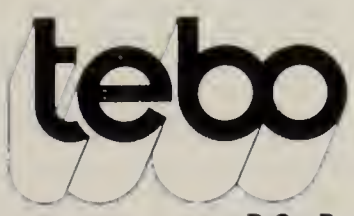

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ANA to Produce Exhibit Judging Manual

Numismatic organizations at all levels — local, state, regional and national — have long felt the need for more uniformity in exhibit judging procedures and guides. American Numismatic Association president Virginia Culver has taken the first step in correcting this situation.

She has appointed a committee of five knowledgeable ANA members to draw up a manual for the guidance of judges of convention exhibits. As soon as the manual is completed and approved by the board of governors, it will become official and ANA judges will be guided by its provisions.

It is anticipated that many clubs and other numismatic groups will use the manual to improve and standardize judging the exhibits at their own shows. Availability of the manual will be announced after it is ready for use, and clubs will be invited to request a copy. It is planned to make the manual available to ANA individual members at a nominal price.

Suggestions and comments will be welcomed by any member of the committee, whose names and addresses follow. While the project cannot be completed in a short time, anyone wishing to contact the committee should do so promptly to give it a chance to benefit by suggestions early in its deliberations.

The committee consists of: F. A. "Tom" Jones, chairman, 13114 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126; Ray Byrne, PO Drawer W., Delray Beach, FL 33444; Byron F. Johnson, 606 NW 80th, Seattle WA 98117; R. S. Yeoman, 115 S. Indiana St., Racine, WI 53405; and Adna G. Wilde, Jr., ex officio member, 29 Friendship Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

Some collectors, especially ANA members, will recall that Yeoman was head judge at last year's convention in Bal Harbour. In addition, he was the insrtuctor for the class in "Judging of Numismatic Exhibits" at the Colorado Springs Summer Seminar, July 6-12. It is evident that "Mr. Red Book" is going to be very much involved in preparation of the new manual.

★ ★ ★

Virginia Culver Listed In Who's Who In America

The American Numismatic Association's 38th president, Virginia Culver (Mrs. John H.) of Thiensville, Wisconsin has been selected for inclusion in the new, thirty-ninth edition of **Who's Who in America.** Mrs. Culver is the first lady to hold the office of president in the association's 85 years.

She is a graduate of Denison University in Granville, Ohio, with a bachelor of arts in history and English. Upon graduation she taught school at the secondary level in Ohio. Last year she was selected to be included in the DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN SCHOLARS, published in cooperation with the American Council of Learned Societies.

Mrs. Culver held a national office in her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, when the Culvers resided in Northern California. In 1968, she was appointed by President Johnson to serve on the United States Assay Commission.

She is the author of numerous articles which have been published in leading numismatic journals and most recently co-authored the GUIDEBOOK OF FRANKLIN MINT ISSUES. In addition to her duties as ANA president, she is also the present editor of the TAMS Journal.

The procedure of names selection for WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA is based on the careful application of standards devised over more than three-quarters of a century and selection to public recognition of accomplishments.

CENTINEL TIME AGAIN!

— Clement F. Bailey, NLG

Our editor was on the other end of the phone. "Hey, did you know that it's Centinel time again?"

"Naw, it just happened last week!" is my normal reply.

"Last week, my foot. That was a couple of months ago. That happened before we went to Kansas City for the annual Easter egg hunt."

"What Easter egg hunt?"

"The Central States annual convention. You said, and I quote, 'There sure is a bunch of good eggs in that club.' "

"You made that up!"

"No, I didn't. It's all on tape."

"You and Nixon, bah-humbug."

"Well, how about another article?"

"Forget it! My name is already on the Elston Bradfield trophy and there ain't no nevermind for more toss up pages."

"That's what you think! We have a big readership and we have to feed them something in each issue. Your baloney is about the best filler that I have left to use in The Centinel."

"How come you don't get some expert like Truman Capote to do a little thing for the cause?"

"It's because of a slight case of 'no fee, nothing free' from guys that high on the totem pole."

"Tough world, isn't it?"

"Tougher for an editor!"

"Now who's feeding whom baloney?"

"Aw, come on! I need some stuff . . . like this afternoon."

"This afternoon? No free stuff goes out on Tuesday. You missed the free day by a whole twenty-four hours — it happened on Monday. Besides, my typewriter is tired!"

"I've heard of tired blood, but not tired typewriter!"'

"Already I invented something original and you haven't done much in the way of 'ooh' and 'ahh.' "

"That was such a smigen of originality that it was hardly worth the effort to mention the un-gem. Anyhow, all of this serious stuff to one side. I need some copy for the next issue. This afternoon would be great. Drop it off when you go to the golf course."

"Holy oak! It's raining and you think the golf course would be the place to be this afternoon? You really have shot the gap. What kind of copy?"

"Any old thing. You need the exposure. As one of the few free-lancers in the business, the more stuff you have published with your name, the more clients you might pick up."

"Listen. Have you seen the size of some of my clients? If I tried to pick any of them up, it would be 'strain city' all the way. Exposure? That is as important as having a wart."

"It might be more important than a wart! You can always get rid of a wart."

"Maybe so. One thing about exposure . . . it's like sending a five-pound brass ball down to a drowning man . . . at least to a 'make my living by writing' character. I'll see you this afternoon . . . with something . . . not for exposure though."

"OK."

(Editor's Note: You may not think it's tough being an editor, but this is a transcript of the telephone conversation that Bailey dropped off on the way to the golf course. His quote, as he went by: "Try this baloney for filler, Finner!")

Centennial Medals H

Alaska was known as Seward's Folly when it was purchased by the U.S. more than a century ago. Today, as the 49th state, it is recognized as the nation's Last Frontier.

If people in the other 49 states are better acquainted with the vast northern state today than they were when the Russian Czar ceded it to the U.S. for the sum of $7,200,000, much of the credit for their education must be given to those medals that were issued in connection with the Alaska Purchase Centennial marked in 1967.

These medals not only supply a vignette of Alaska's history; they also tell us about what people do in America's least populous state, and give us an acquaintanceship with them that we would not otherwise have.

The key piece of any such event, of course, is the official medal, and in the case of the Alaska Purchase Centennial, this was an extremely handsome high relief medal created by Major Robert D. Vodicka and struck in extremely high relief by the Medallic Art Co.

William H. Seward, Secretary of State during the administration of President Andrew Johnson, is portrayed on the obverse. Though Seward completed negotiations with Edouard de Stoeckl, his Russian counterpart in the court of Czar Alexander II, on March 30, 1867, it was not until Oct. 18, that Gen Lovell H. Rousseau took actual physical possession of the land from Capt. Alexis Pestchouroff, and the Stars and Stripes replaced the double eagle at Sitka, where the transfer was effected.

A totem pole, associated with Alaska's Indian population, is the main feature of the medal's reverse. Reading from the bottom to the top, it capsulized the state's history, beginning with the steeple of a Russian church at the base, on top of which stands an American eagle, symbolizing the purchase of the territory.

The gold banner in the center of the pole recalls the great Gold Rush of the '90s, and the stylized locomotive above him recalls the growing need for all kinds of transportation to bring supplies to the growing population.

Crowning the totem is the star, with the figure 49 in the center, symbolizing Alaska's entry as the 49th state into the Union, on Jan. 3, 1959.

The Danish-Russian explorer, Vitus Jinassen Bering, landed on the Alaskan mainland in 1741, and died there of cold and hunger. By 1785, the Russians established their first school in North America, at Three Saints on

—by Andrew P. Oberbillig

Kodiak Island. The Asian colonists were engaged in hostilities with the native Indians through 1804, when the red men made their last stand.

As early as 1824, the U.S. and Russia signed a treaty which defined the southeastern boundary of "Russian America" as 54 degrees and 10 minutes north, and guaranteed U.S. trading rights for the next 10 years.

Thirty-five years later, in 1859, negotiations were initiated between Russia and the U.S. for the sale of the territory to the U.S. When these were culminated in 1867, the population of the vast territory was estimated at 30,000, of whom fewer than 1,000 were non-native.

The magnificently high-relief official Alaska Purchase Centennial medal, designed by Major Robert D. Vodicka, sculptured by Rolf Beck and struck by the Medallic Art Co., presents a capsule chronicle of America's Last Frontier. The state flag portrays the Big Dipper pointing to the North Star. The totem recalls the era from the Russian sale to Alaska's admission to statehood in 1959. Alaska's Indians used totem poles to tell their tribal history also.

Tell Alaska's Story

The discovery of gold in the Alaskan Yukon in 1896 opened the territory to fortune hunters by the hundreds. Comparatively few of these newcomers "struck it rich;" many, however, were caught up in the lure of the Last Frontier and never returned to their original homes.

By 1910, the somewhat lopsided white population of the territory consisted of five men for every woman. Even with these odds against them, however, the forces of civilization had their way. Alaska was formally organized as a territory in 1912, six years after its first non-voting delegate was sent to Congress. The first bill for Alaskan statehood was introduced in 1916, and in 1917 the University of Alaska was founded near Fairbanks.

Alaska's proximity to Japan led to a massive military construction boom beginning in 1941, which brought hundreds of civilian technicians as well as service personnel to the "last frontier." The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 produced the second military construction boom; the population had swelled to 128,643, and the male-female ratio had changed considerably.

President Eisenhower signed the Alaska Statehood Act on July 7, 1958, and on Jan. 3, 1959, the Union gained its 49th state.

Some impressions of the vastness of the area covered by the state whose size pushed Texas into second place is indicated on the obverse of the official statehood medal of 1959, which depicts its area overlaid on a map of the

Rugged annual challenge to the finest of Alaska's athletes is the annual Mount Marathon race held at Seward. The event is a gruelling test of speed and stamina.

U.S., virtually blanketing the entire Midwest, with the Aleutian chain stretching as far west as the Pacific Ocean and the southern peninsula reaching down to Florida.

In a land as big as Alaska, transportation from the seaports to the more remote locations is extremely vital, and several medals in my collection have transportation as their theme. One of these is coarsely humorous "Moose Gooser" Kiwanis Steam Railroad medal in the purchase Centennial series. A copy of the official medal design of Major Vodicka's appears on the reverse.

While the dog sled has given way to the railroad for moving freight, much personal transportation is supplied by Alaska's famous bush pilots. A tribute

The services performed by Alaska's fearless bush pilots is commemorated on a Purchase Centennial medal issued by te Alaska Aviation Committee. Skis supplant wheels to make landing possible on snowy wastes.

is paid to these men on the Alaska Aviation Committee medal. A 1920s-vintage Waco-type biplane is shown on the obverse, fitted with skis rather than wheels for landing.

Another airplane issue was struck at the Franklin Mint to commemorate the first airmail flight from Sika Municipal Airport on Dec. 14, 1966, just 17 days before Alaska's Centennial year.

of the last strongholds of nature on the North American continent, are physical, outdoor people, and welcome practically any kind of challenge. One of the most rugged of these physical challenges is the annual Mount Marathon race held in Seward each year.

A medal struck to mark the 52nd staging of the event in 1966 shows the city as it appears from the top of the mountain on the obverse. On the re-

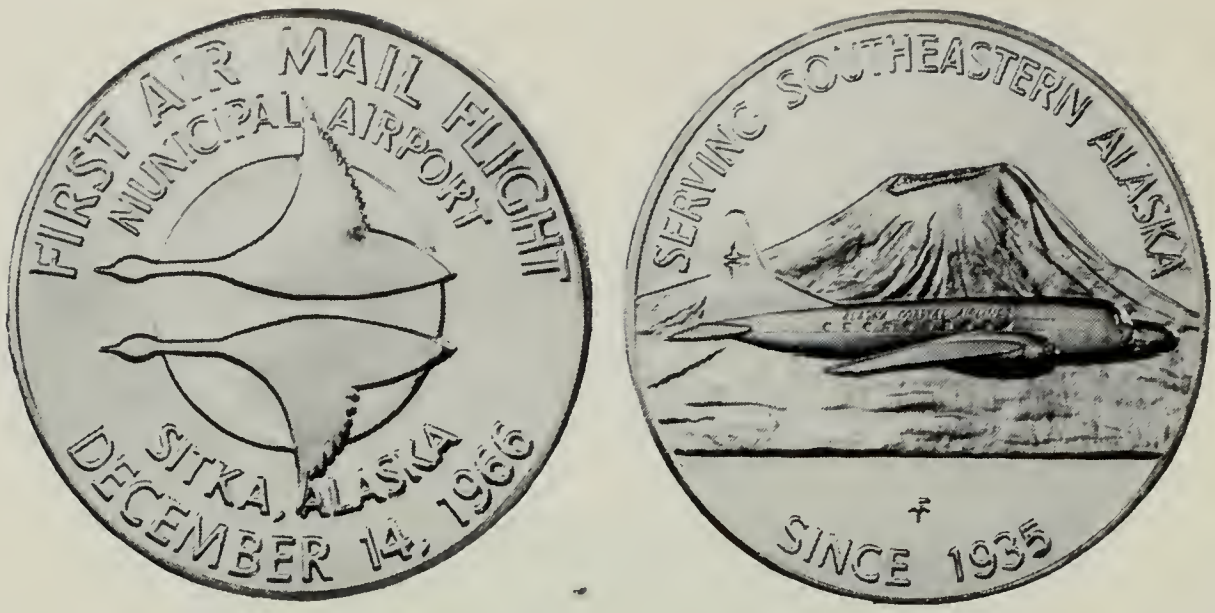
The breathtaking size of the 48th state is illustrated by the official statehood medal design, which illustrates that the area it covers, overlaid on "mainland" America, reaches from coast to coast.

Ordered by Alaska Coastal Airlines, the medal is a fairly scarce one, especially outside Alaska, since most were sold to local residents. A total of 610 were struck in silverclad Proof; 500 silver-clad Proof-like; 1,098 in Proof-like Franklin brass, and 1,041 in Mint issue Franklin brass.

Alaskans, living on the fringe of one

verse a runner is seen following the high mountain trail as he races against the clock.

Another annual event which has top popularity in the northland and should bring out some of the more agile of Santa's gnomes is the Farthest North Rodeo staged by the Farthest North Rodeo Club.



The first Air Mail flight left Sitka's Municipal Airport on an Alaska Coastal Airlines plane 117 days before the Centennial year. The medal commemorating the event was struck by the Franklin Mint.

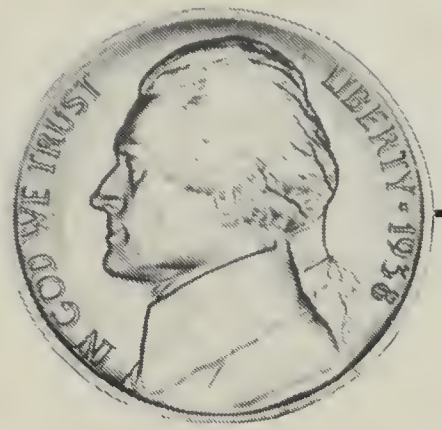
On the obverse, a cowboy is portrayed — riding a bucking polar bear across the top of the world, with the gleaming rays of the Midnight Sun in the background. The Alaskan's hospitable philosophy is expressed in the legend on the reverse: A "STRANGER" IN OUR "GREAT LAND" IS A FRIEND WE HAVE NOT MET.

Many other stories can be told by Alaskan numismatic issues such as those commemorating the creation of the 49th State, the saloon and pool hall tokens of many different communities, the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp. tokens of 1935, the fur trade tokens, the trading items of the Eskimos and Alaskan Indians, and many more items. But these must wait for another time.

(Reprinted courtesy of **Coin World**)

No one can dispute the claim of the "Farthest North" Rodeo. The event is held at the North Pole under the sponsorship of the Lions Club.

IT'S YOUR COIN ...Tell Me About It!



— by Daniel C. Parker

After giving a talk at a local club, the writer had concluded his presentation with the statement, "If you can't tell an interesting story about the coin, medal, or other item, it's not worth collecting." During the question and answer period following the talk, a young chap, who had listened with a great deal of interest, asked, "So I collect Jefferson Nickels; what's to tell about them?"

Well, he just hadn't done his homework! Here he had one of the prime subjects for a presentation, and he had 'blown' it! What's to tell about Jefferson, the nickel, and a large part of United States coinage? So much that the writer hesitates to tackle the subject.

Thomas Jefferson, of course, was primarily known as the author and guiding light of the Constitution of the New Nation. But he also performed yeoman work in the establishment of a firm, trusted, and recognized coinage for the New Nation. He was called upon to do his 'bit' when it was decided that the new United States, in order to enter into trade and intercourse with the other nations of the world, would need a respected coinage. Yes, even then, the respectability of a nation depended upon its coinage and credit. To have respectability, the nation's money would have to be respected.

Thomas Jefferson was born to wealth. His family was established in Virginia, one of the original colonies long before he came upon the scene. Because he believed in the principles on which the nation was founded, he devoted much time to also establishing and propounding the 'rightness' of the principles. A very talented man, and so recognized by his associates, he was called upon time and again to contribute a share in the formation of the new nation. As stated earlier, he and he alone wrote the preamble and articles of confederation of the United States. He was multi-talented. An educated man, he was a musician, linguist, mathematician, and even an architect. The last has been a point of dispute, but there is no denying the fact that he designed his home, Monticello. Sadly enough, he never saw the home completed.

When Congress first established a Bureau of the Mint, it was placed as

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(Editor's Note: Mr. Parker's regular column, "The ABCs of Numismatics," has been withheld from this issue of The Centinel so that we might present his feature on Jefferson. Watch for the ABCs to resume in the next issue.)

a responsibility of the Department of the Treasury. At the time, Thomas Jefferson served George Washington and the Nation as Secretary of State. Alexander Hamilton was Secretary of the Treasury. Hamilton called upon Thomas Jefferson to aid in the establishment of denominations and coinage. Jefferson, a very thorough man, worked diligently at the task. He took the foremost and most respected bit of coinage in the world, the Spanish Milled Dollar, and used its weight and size as a base for the American 'Dollar.' Then, because smaller denominations would be vitally needed internally, he proceeded to break the dollar denomination down into halves, fourths, tenths, and hundredths. Yes, he even broke it down to a two-hundredth.

With the establishment of denominations, it was also necessary to make the coinage at least equal in value to the intrinsic worth of the metal of which it was constituted. Naturally, because the Spanish Milled Dollar was a silver coin, it was decided that it should so remain. Fairly large, there was no problem to striking a coin smaller, to be equal the value of a half-dollar. Nor did the quarter dollar pose any insurmountable obstacle. The tenths and even twentieth parts had counterparts in coinage of other nations of the period. Thus, in the division into fractions, Jefferson named the tenth of a dollar a "disme." Jefferson was fluent in French, and it is the suspicion of this writer, that he named the disme so from the French word for one-tenth, Dixieme, later corrupted to disme. Now, corrupted further, to dime. We had a half-dime, and to get below the denomination, it was decided that a change in metal was needed. Therefore, copper, a much more plentiful and cheaper metal, was used to strike the cents and half-cents. The word "cent," we suspect, came from the French "centime," or hundredth part of the dollar.

The reader, we are certain, can readily see that Jefferson had to be a mathematician. We cannot determine for certain that Jefferson had assistance in the determination of the above denominations. The incorporations of the metals, to include the intrinsic worth into each coin, may have been suggested by others. There were many capable patriots in the early United States who had knowledge and were familiar with the value of different metals. After all, wasn't Paul Revere a silversmith? As an interesting sidelight, many of our early coins were found damaged along the edges, by some "sharpy" filing a bit of the metal from the coin.

An act of Congress, dated April 2, 1792, established a Mint. Congress appropriated monies to build or buy a building. They gave money to buy presses, albeit, old hand-screw presses. Then, they neglected to appropriate anything for metal from which the coins were to be struck. During debate prior to establishment of the Mint, Alexander Hamilton pressed for an inspection committee to determine that the minter was making the coins of the quality which would establish the confidence the nation hoped to give to those nations with whom it would be trading. At one point in the debating before Congress, Hamilton suggested a committee, composed of himself as Secretary of the Treasury, naturally he wished the President to be a member, and also asked that the Secretary of State, who in this case was Jefferson, be a part of this committee. Thus, we had the forerunner of the present Assay Commission. Because the author of this article is a bit of a rebel, we suspect that the populace, when apprised of the selection of candidates for the first Assay Commission, rejected the proposal with a snort, "Hell, this is the ESTABLISHMENT!" Since that very first Assay, the Commission has been comprised of civilians

who pay their own way simply for the honor connected with being named by the President as Assay Commissioners.

To get back to Jefferson and his connection with United States coinage, the design of the coin—the Jefferson nickel—was commissioned by President Roosevelt. After all, Jefferson was the first Democrat. Even today, an accolade is to be called a "Jeffersonian Democrat." The adopted design was submitted by Felix Schlag, a Michiganian.

When the coin was first struck, there was no identification as to the designer. Schlag's initials were added just a few years ago. The writer has seen framed nickels with documentary autographed proof signed by Schlag. Several years ago, they were fairly common and could be had for but a few dollars. Today, significantly, the cost has multiplied. We did suggest to the young man who first asked the question, "What's to tell about the Jefferson nickel?," that he write to Mr. Schlag, explaining his interest in the coin. He did and was overjoyed to receive an answer from Mr. Schlag, with an autograph written to him personally. It is framed and is contained in an interesting exhibit he has made of the self-same Jefferson nickel.

So, what's to tell about it?? So much is left to be said! The very early mint-marked specimens, those of 1938 and 1939, bearing the S or D mintmark, command a premium. In 1942, when World War II was upon us, nickel rose sharply in price as a strategic war material. The Mint then used an alloy of 75% copper and 25% silver as the base metal for the striking of the coins. Today, these coins bring premium as the silver is worth more than the 5c denomination. The master die for the Jefferson nickel was reworked just four years ago. Today, specimens are sharper and better than ever. It was the author's own experience with the denomination that whetted the appetite for study of the coin.

Back before he became interested in numismatics, the writer was courting a lovely young lady. He had made up his mind that 'here was the girl he'd like to spend the rest of his life with.' Being old fashioned, before the proposal of marriage, he wished to at least offer a ring to the damsel. So, being like all young people, never saving a dime, he had to have the wherewithall to at least make down payment on an engagement ring. In order to start saving, he began buying up every Jefferson nickel at his gas station, stores, etc. Every evening he deposited the coins in a two-pound coffee tin. When the tin was full, he took it to a jewelry store to shop for

(See **It's Your Coin,** page 31)

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Up, Down Market Prevails At Kansas City Auction

Both high prices realized and bargains made news in the April 25-26 Rare Coin Company of America (RARCOA) auction held at the Central States Numismatic Society Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Nearly 700 lots of U.S. material and over 100 foreign coins were sold in the two sessions.

Especially indicative of the up and down market shown in the sale were the U.S. gold coins which opened the first session.

Many of the 66 lots of $1 gold coins were noteworthy for the high or low prices realized.

At the two extremes were a proof 1875 that carries a Tele-Quote value of $15,000 and brought $16,500 at auction; and an XF-AU 1861-D that sold for $5,750. The 1861-D was cataloged as "the rarest collectible gold dollar," with probably less than 15 known specimens. It is valued at $8,000 in XF.

With few exceptions, prices for the proof $1s were generally low. (Tele-Quote value in parentheses). A proof 1859 brought $3,200 ($5,000); an 1860 sold for $2,400 ($3,500); and a rare 1857 brought $6,000. One of the proofs selling higher than expected was an 1858 that brought $7,750 ($6,000).

Other gold dollars of note in the sale were an AU 1855-D that fetched $3,700; an 1856-D in AU that sold for $6,250; and an XF 1860-D that brought $3,250 ($5,000).

Leading a run of Indian Head $10 coins was a BU 1907 wire edge, with periods, (mintage 500). With a rather noticeable rim nick, it sold for $4,750. An unimpaired BU specimen has a Tele-Quote value of about $7,500. Also selling at the low end of the scale was a gem BU 1920-S Indian Head eagle cataloged as "one of the finest known for this excessively rare date." It sold for $18,000 ($25,000 TQ).

A fine selection of Liberty double eagles also showed the up and down trend. A VF example of the rarest of the New Orleans minted $20s, 1856-O, sold for $17,000. The specimen sold in the Delp sale brought $8,500 in Unc. Also fetching an unexpectedly high price was a very rare (mintage 828) 1885 that brought $11,000 in AU. An uncirculated specimen has a Tele-Quote value of $9,000.

The rarest of the Liberty double eagles in the sale, a proof 1887 (121 minted), sold low, at $25,000. In Stack's May, 1974 sale, a specimen brought $32,500. Also sold at a bargain price was a VF 1870-CC that brought $15,500. In the Gilhousen sale, 1973, an about VF specimen sold for $20,000.

Others of note in the series were: XF 1860-O sold at $3,000; AU 1861-S Paquet which brought $6,250; AU 1879-O sold for $4,000; Unc. 1891 which brought only $3,600 ($7,500 T-Q); and BU 1891-CC that sold for $3,600.

A number of the scarcer St. Gaudens $20s were also sold at bargain prices, the only noteable exception being a BU example of the seldom offered 1921 that sold for $26,000 (T-Q $20,000). The bargains included: BU

1920-S sold for $7,500 ($12,500); BU 1927-S at $5,000 (6,500); XF 1929 which brought $2,600 ($6,500); BU 1930-S at $12,000 ($17,500); BU 1931 sold for $9,250 ($12,000)); BU 1931-D sold for $11,500 ($17,500); and BU 1932 which sold for $12,500 ($15,000).

Noteworthy U.S. gold coins in the $2½, $3 and $5 denominations were: BU 1831 quarter eagle that sold for $6,850; BU 1882 $3 sold at $2,050; and 1798 large 8, large eagle $5, BU, that sold for $2,500.

Both varieties of 1915-S Panama-Pacific Exposition $50 commemoratives were offered in the RARCOA sale in BU condition. The round coin brought $14,000; while the octagonal sold for $12,000.

Topping an impressive run of U.S. patterns was the very rare 1868 large cent, similar in design to those last struck in 1857. The copper proof pattern brought $6,100. A proof nickel 5 cents with Lincoln head design, 1866, sold for $2,500.

The second session opened with copper and silver U.S. coins. Among the highlights were: VF 1793 chain, America cent which brought $1,450; and an Unc. 1803 large cent that brought the same price.

An Unc. 1812 large date cent sold for $1,100; a BU 1866 two-cent piece sold for $235 ($160 T-Q).

Among the rare early silver was a gem Unc. 1795 half dime that sold for over twice Tele-Quote value at $7,750; a BU "Libekty" variety 1800 half dime brought $4,000.

Highlights in the dime series were: BU 1796 that brought $5,700; BU 1807 that sold for $4,500 ($2,900 T-Q); and an 1837 no stars Liberty Seated dime that brought $2,050 in BU. A gem BU 1876 20-cent coin sold for $1,500.

Impressive among the quarters were: an XF 1796 small eagle quarter that sold for $4,700; BU 1836 that sold at $1,525; and an Unc. 1853 arrows and rays that brought $1,300.

In the half dollar series were an 1806, pointed 6, stem through claw in BU that brought $1,200; and two coins that were bid upon the floor to exceptionally high prices—an 1829 in BU that sold for $975 ($400 T-Q); and a gem proof 1913 Barber half that brought $1,300 ($600). An arrow and rays 1853 Liberty Seated half brought $2,200.

Leading the bust silver dollars was a BU specimen 1802/1 wide date that sold for $5,000. Others of note were an Unc. 1801 that brought $1,500; an XF-AU 1800 that brought $1,050; and an AU 1799 that sold for $1,300. An XF 1836 Gobrecht pattern dollar sold for $1,510; and a proof 1883 Trade dollar brought $1,150.

The second session was highlighted by the sale of 44 small size (series 1929) National Bank Notes, virtually all in CU condition. Some of the rarest states were included, such as a Wyoming, First National Bank of Lovell $5 that was sold at $825. A Western Montana N.B. of Missoula, Mont. $10 sold for $385; an American N.B. of Valley City, N.D. $5 sold at $751; a $5 on the First N.B. of Winslow, Ariz., brought $705; while an Arkansas, First N.B. of El Dorado sold for $360.

The Nationals were followed by a run of Canadian silver dollars, most of which were sold at bargain prices. A gem proof "restrike" 1939 brought $1,100 against a $2,500 estimate; a proof 1945 sold at $900; a 1947 Maple Leaf proof sold for $1,500.

The sale ended with a collection of foreign multiple portrait coins and medals highlighted by: Brunswick 1915 5 marks; Accession commemorative, which brought $1,100 in Unc.; a 1742 Palatinate (Pfalz) gold ducat that brought $1,875 in Unc.; and a Parma 1858 5 lire that sold for $1,150 in Unc.

A prices realized list for the sale is available for $3 from RARCOA, 31 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. 60602.

WHAT OUR CLUBS HAVE TO SAY

Numismatic Author Speaks To Missouri Convention

The 75 members and guests attending the 383rd meeting of the Missouri Numismatic Society of St. Louis, April 22, enjoyed an unusual opportunity to hear a personal evaluation of currently existing domestic and international numismatic problems by one of the hobby's most knowledgeable numismatists, Eric P. Newman.

Touching on facets such as availability of foreign coins, U.S.A. official Bicentennial issues, controversial status of various international gold issues, and dilemmas confronting the numismatic press, Newman deplored the lack of legal availability of certain foreign issues, particularly ancient and medieval coins, despite a plentiful supply in at least some of the countries.

He reported efforts by various public and private interests to promote issuance of a gold Bicentennial coin and a $2 note, and encouraged concerned numismatists to pursue these possibilities by Congressional contact.

Newman concluded by encouraging his audience to actively participate whenever and however possible in establishing and maintaining the highest possible code of ethics throughout the hobby, pointed out that only by personal involvement can the collector enhance integrity of numismatic policies and issues and, in turn, assure the integrity of his own collection.

MNS Public Relations Chairman, and ANA Missouri District Representative Bernice Steveneson, reported in detail recent ANA decisions and activities of widespread hobby interest.

Two new MNS members were accepted, representative of a normal monthly membership acquisition which it is believed is indicative of continued interest in and growth of the hobby. The society will stage its 16th Annual Coin Festival, August 8-10, at The Marriott Motor Hotel, Highway I-70 at Lambert Municipal Airport, St. Louis, featuring a 95-table bourse and an auction by Joseph Lepczyk.

★ ★ ★

Indiana Museum Displays Recovered Treasure Coins

Evansville, Ind., Museum displayed valuable gold coins minted in Spanish colonies of the New World recently. These coins were part of a treasure recovered in the late 1950s from a Spanish fleet wrecked off the Florida coast in 1715.

The coins were donated to the museum in 1967 after the treasure was auctioned in New York City. They were never displayed before because the museum has not had a display case which could both show the coins and keep them safe, according to Frances Martin, research curator.

According to their legend, the coins were part of the "Royal Fifth" demanded from Spanish colonies by the Spanish king. A fifth of all gold and silver minted in New World colonies became the property of the king.

Death Takes Calumet Club President

The Calumet Numismatic Club of East Chicago, Indiana, lost its president, June 25, when an apparent heart attact claimed the life of Fay C. Smith. The longtime active supporter of mid-west numismatics was a columnist for the Hammond (Indiana) Times.

★ ★ ★

Michigan State Group Plans November Convention

The Michigan State Numismatic Society has announced that its 20th annual Fall Convention will be held November 28-30 at the Detroit Heritage Hotel, Washington Blvd., Detroit, Michigan.

Further information is available by writing to: MSNS, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

★ ★ ★

Florence M. Schook Named Numismatic Ambassador

The "koffee klatch" on Saturday, June 14, during the 19th annual spring convention of the Michigan State Numismatic Society held in Lansing, was the setting for the presentation of another Numismatic News Weekly "Numismatic Ambassador Award." Recipient of the award presented by News publisher Clifford Mishler (pictured left above) was Florence M. Schook.

Long active in Michigan coin collecting circles and secretary of the MSNS for the past several years, Mrs. Schook was recognized for her extremely active participation in Young Numismatist programs both locally and nationally. Under her guidance, junior collector activities in the state of Michigan have been among the most active in the country, and building on her activities there she has aided in the launch of similar activity programs in other areas of the nation.

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Iowa Club Reports Successful Annual Spring Convention

The 12th annual spring convention, the Mid-Iowa Coin-a-rama, held in Perry, Iowa, attracted an estimated 800 visitors, according to L. L. Owen, show official.

Hourly door prizes consisted of Eisenhower dollars, Churchill crowns, Canadian dollars, Coronation crowns, MacArthur commemorative sets and various proof sets.

Sponsored annually by four Mid-Iowa coin clubs — Grand Junction, Boone, Ames, and Perry, this year's Coin-a-rama attracted 46 bourse dealers and 1 exhibits.

Best of Show award went to Marjorie Owen for her "Famous Educational Series" of paper money. Dr. John Tilton won the INA best of show honors for his exhibit of U.S. coins.

Other winners were: Junior Division — Brooke Samuelson, Jacqueline Wildfang and Mark Milliman; U.S. Coins — Dr. John Tilton, Robert Douglas and Jim Small; U.S. Currency — Marjorie Owen, Mike Scacci and L. L. Owen; Foreign — Robert Douglas, John Kelso and Richard Hoidahl; Checks — Eugene Morris and Larry Adams; U.S. Gold — Marjorie Owen and Donald Ade; and Tokens & Medals — John Kelso, Eugene Morris and Richard Hoidahl.

The Coin-a-rama served as a meeting place for an interim meeting of the INA Board. Plans are being made for the annual State Convention to be held in Cedar Rapids on October 4-5.

★ ★ ★

Wooden Souvenirs Fund Michigan Youth Program

Wooden dollars to benefit the youth program were issued for the Michigan State Numismatic Society's 19th Annual Spring Convention held June 14-15 at the Olds Plaza Hotel, Lansing, Michigan.

Michigan Young Numismatists president Russ Stubbert and vice president Peter Weiss designed the wooden dollar and Joe Overstreet, honorary life member of the state organization, funded the issue. Proceeds will go into the MYN Fund.

The two-inch round wooden dollars, printed in black, depict a clock on the obverse bordered by the inscription, "It's Time For Youth." The reverse shows convention dates and location with a drum major and the state emblem to one side.

The wooden souvenirs may be ordered for 25¢ each or three for 50¢ from MSNS secretary, Florence Schook, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

Chicago Passersby Gather Flying Dollar Bills

Flying objects identifed as $1 bills, and crisp ones at that, landed in downtown Chicago recently along La Salle Street, near the Northern Trust Bank.

Allan Davidson, 37, was walking along there when the money began falling. When he started picking it up, passersby and a policeman began helping him, assuming the money was his.

An accumulation amounting to $588 was turned over to the police. However, Northern Trust vice president, Henry Frankel only compounded the mystery by confirming that no bank departments nor depositors had reported any missing money.

★ ★

The three-fourths, piastre stamps of Cyprus, in 1928, showed the silver coins of Amanthus.

Richard Sharon Named 1974 Outstanding YN

Richard (Ricky) Sharon was recently cited by the Warren Coin Club, Warren, Michigan, as their 1974 Outstanding Young Numismatist and is further honoring him by sending him, with full expenses paid, to his first ANA convention.

Ricky, currently serving as president of the Young Numismatists of the Warren Coin Club, has won numerous exhibit awards on both the local and state organization level, and has been the recipient of several literary awards.

Such recognition is typical of the Warren Coin Club which not only donates generously to various numismatic endeavors, but also to many community projects, schools and hospitals.

(See **Club News,** page 31)

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Collectors Win Exhibit Prizes

Exhibit award winners at the Will County Coin Club show in Joliet, Ill., included from left: George Hendrick, first place in paper money and best display by a club member; Jack Huggins Jr., first in juniors class; Harold Potter, second in foreign coins; George Gaspar, first in foreign coins and first in medals; Sandy Voss, third in medals; Jack Huggins Sr., frist in gold; Steve Brooks, second in gold, Ethyl Ziesmer, third in gold and second in medals; Dale Richeson, first in U.S. coins and best of show; Diana Voss, third in juniors; Harold Phillips, second in U.S. coins. Not shown are Earl Kentner, third in U.S. coins; Leo R. Miller, second in paper money and first in miscellaneous and John M. Moeller, second in juniors.

FUTURE C.S.N.S. CONVENTIONS

April 29 - May 2, 1976 ..... **Sheraton Hotel** ..... **Chicago, Illinois**
Chairman: William Pettit, 3 Clay Court, Boulder Hill, Aurora, Illinois 60538

May 13-17, 1977 ..... **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
Chairman: A. P. "Del" Bertschy, 714 E. Glendale Ave.,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

Dates to be announced, 1978 ..... **St. Louis, Missouri**

Dates to be announced, 1980 ..... **Lincoln, Nebraska**
Chairman: Allen L. Schrock, P.O. Box 1212, D.T.S., Omaha, Nebraska 68101

Dates to be announced, 1982 (tentative) ..... **Madison, Wisconsin**

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS convention? It's not too early to begin thinking about 1979 or 1981! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer as early as possible. Your request will receive the attention of the Board of Governors at the earliest opportunity.

Clubs News —

(From page 29)

Florence Schook, Warren club board member and Club Representative, was named 1974 Outstanding Club Member, and is accepting the responsibility of chaperoning Ricky at the 1975 ANA convention in Los Angeles.

★ ★ ★

Indiana Club Supports Local Public Library

In past years, the Evansville, Ind., Coin Club has supplied the Willard Library with coin books, magazines, and furniture. Most recently the group, through its president, Sterling Harrison, gave the library $500 to assist in the upstairs' restoration project.

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It's Your Coin —

(From page 23)

a ring for his loved one. For anyone who would like to know just how much is involved in a two-pound tin of nickels, the sum was $140.00! So painless, and so swift. This, of course, was before we had become interested in coin collecting. Although the writer doesn't begrude the investment he made, (yes, it turned out very happily), he does sometimes wish he had every last one of those nickels back! At the risk of dating ones self, the years were 1939-40. How many of the premium 1938-D and S, and 1939-D and S coins we had in that trove of 2,800 nickels, we can't imagine! We do wish, however, that we could again see that trove and skim through it, before we turned it over to the jeweler. We don't think we made a bad investment, but we certainly could put a bigger and better show in diamonds, given the difference between face and premium on all those 1938 and 1939 nickels, is, to say the least, persuasive.

★ ★

Arabic countries generally date their coins in accordance with the Mohammedan era (A.H.), which started July 16, 662 A.D.

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A word about the great Scarcity of Sheets of Eighteen. Shortly before the Hon. John W. Snyder's Term of office expired, we sent an order to the Treasury Department for several 1935-D $1 Uncut Sheets. However, our Order was not filled until after Hon. George W. Humphrey became the new Secretary and, departing from previous policy, we were sent only One Sheet - with a Refund for those not supplied. Not long after Mr. Humphrey assumed Office, he issued an Order to stop supplying Collectors with Uncut Sheets, thereby unfortunately bringing to an end the Great Service that had been rendered to Collectors so many years. This explains why many of the sheets (and no doubt earlier sheets) never reached Collector's hands. So now you know - and why these rare sheets are valued to highly. We are indeed fortunate to offer you the following - Superb New Sheets (Just One or Two of each):

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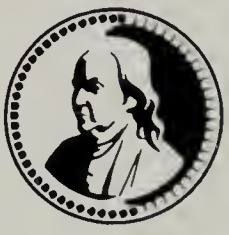

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